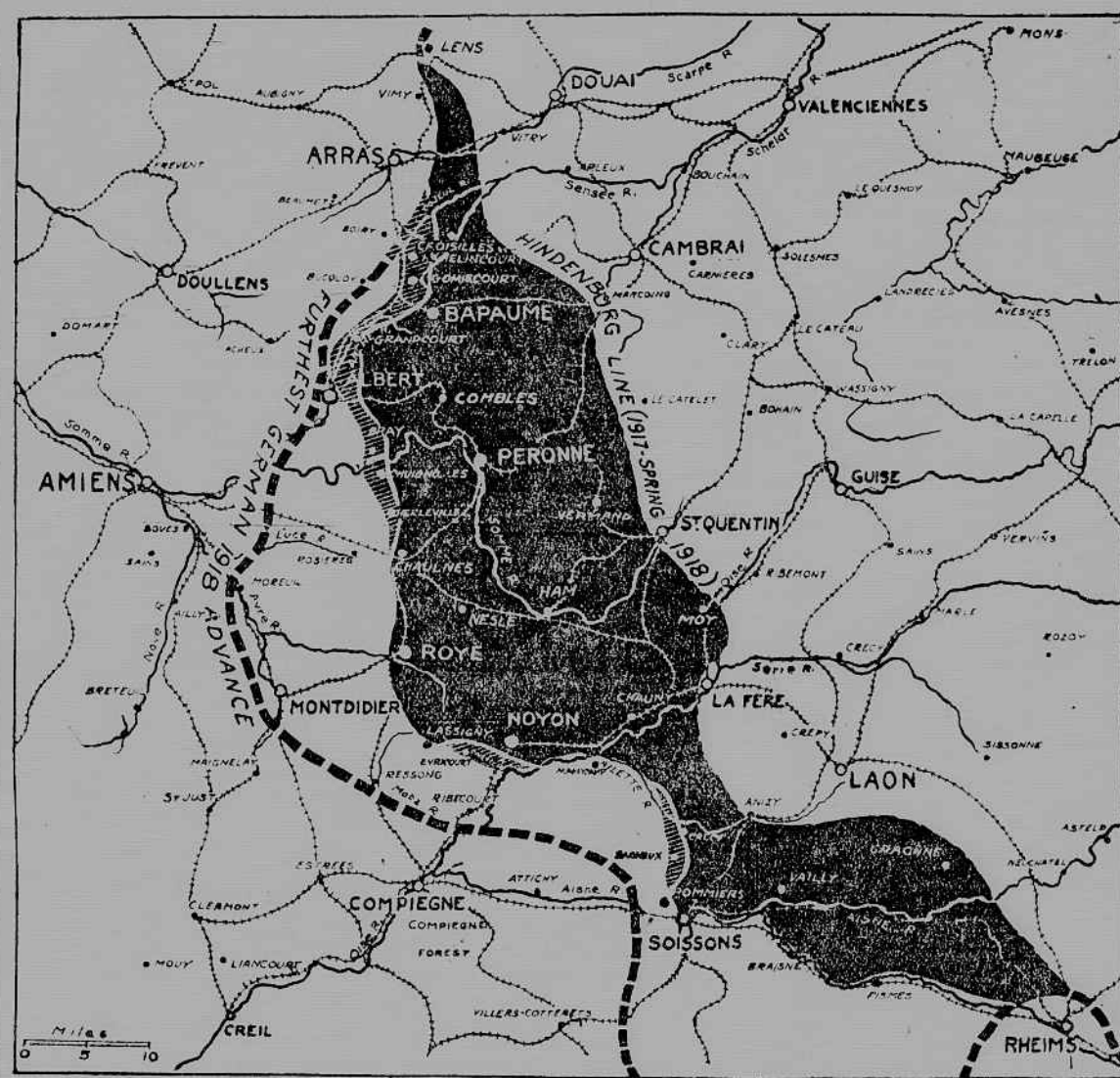


## The Great War—1480th Day

## THE PASSING GERMAN SHADOW



The Allied armies yesterday continued to advance on both flanks of the great battle line. The British in the north wrested from the enemy the largest shaded area, while the French took the two smaller areas. German gains of this year still held by the foe are shown in solid black. Military experts believe that the steady advance of the British on the Somme flank and of the French on the Oise and Ailette will force Ludendorff to fall back to his defensive positions of last winter on the Hindenburg line.

Continued their forward movement, and at last reports were pushing steadily onward.

Gomécourt, by reason of its terrain, apparently was considered the pivot of a turning movement, for, once having taken it, the British sent troops swinging down south in the direction of Bapaume. The Germans on this portion of the battlefield were badly disorganized. There were Germans all over the place, but they seemed to have no ideas of counter attack. Some apparently did not even know exactly where they were.

The fighting south of Gomécourt today was especially severe. Incidentally this movement cut in around the rear of the German line. At the same time the British here, having launched an other frontal attack on the enemy's stronghold, again were in hard fighting. While the battle was raging here British planes were helping the fighters on the ground by heavily bombing or using machine guns against the enemy. Among other things obtained were several direct hits on a building at the rear of which were several touring cars. This building apparently was a German headquarters.

South of Ailette-Grand the British did not start today's operations so early as further north. The New Zealanders here stepped work to let a German counter develop. They "played dead" until the advancing enemy infantry was almost on top of them. Then they put down a heavy machine gun barrage just at the rear of the Germans, who surrendered in a body rather than be killed in their tracks. This happened just north of Miraumont.

Many of the prisoners were non-commissioned officers and all of them appeared to be glad that they had been captured. When asked about the Austrians the prisoners expressed the greatest contempt for their allies as soldiers, saying they were no good whatever.

Slightly to the south the British have crossed the Aneire River and started back in the general direction of Courcellette. Already they are reported to be southeast of Grandcourt. This move means from the rear the German stronghold at Thiéval, which is an old fortress.

At Albert the British pushed forward toward Tara Hill. At the back of that town an airplane report at about noon said the British troops held the entire position. About the same time German shells started breaking on Tara, while British shrapnel could be seen bursting some distance on the other side of the town. Showing where the enemy had been driven. Large numbers of prisoners were taken in this locality.

Gaining on Bapaume The British troops seem to be progressing well up the road from Albert to Bapaume. Which troops are participating in the fighting in this neighborhood.

South of Albert Meaulle appears to be in British hands, having been captured early in the day. The line extends southeasterly, with a break where the Germans last evening managed to take Happy Valley, just north-west of Bray, by throwing in fresh troops of the 25th Division, which apparently were brought up for this special purpose.

The Germans suffered severely here during the first attack. The fighting was very heavy. Since then the Germans have been constantly heavily bombed upon. Happy Valley truly is a shambles. It may be a hell.

South of the Somme the Australians were most successful in the part they played in today's battle. They easily attained all their objectives and apparently hold Courcellette, Chagnon and Herleville and are pushing eastward of these villages a little distance to make sure of holding them.

In this region 23 German officers and 1,500 men of other ranks were made prisoner. Eleven of the captured officers were from one regiment.

The Germans offered heavy resistance at Chagnon, but, with the assistance of tanks, the Australians hammered through the enemy and swept along, leaving the town and its environs filled with dead Germans.

On the ridge south of this town there also was fierce fighting, which almost reached the hand-to-hand stage before the Australians made it clear to the Germans that they were not to be stopped and shoved them over the ridge and onward.

Just now large numbers of guns are being away all along the line. At some places they are being hammered; at others it is rolling up into intense drumfire, telling where the fighting is going on. The German shells seem to be coming in from long distances. Evidently their guns have been moved backward for safety. The German artillerymen apparently have not the greatest confidence in the skill of their comrades in the infantry to ward off the blows being delivered against them.

The fighting to the south of this region began in the night, when strong British forces assailed Gomécourt just a few minutes before the Germans had anticipated launching an attack at the same place. Gomécourt was British at daylight. As it happened, the British upset all the enemy plans, and after killing many Germans and capturing 500 in the town of Gomécourt alone Field Marshal Haig's men continued their forward movement, and at last reports were pushing steadily onward.

## The Official Statements

## FRENCH

PARIS (NIGHT).—Between the Matz and the Oise there have been violent artillery actions.

We have crossed the Divette River in the region of Evricourt. Between the Ailette and the Aisne we have made progress to the east of Bagnieu and west of Crecy-au-Mont.

PARIS (DAY).—During the night there was a violent bombardment between the region of Beauvoisines (south of Roye) and the Oise, notably at Plomont, Passel and Chiry-Ourscamp.

We hold the southern banks of the Oise and the Ailette from Sempigny to the railroad at Coucy-le-Château. East of Selenus French troops carried their lines as far as the outskirts of Gany and Pont-St. Mar.

## BRITISH

LONDON (NIGHT).—We pressed our attacks vigorously and successfully to-day on a front of thirty miles from Lihons to Mercatel. South of the Somme we carried the villages of Herleville, Chagnon and Chagnon, with the woods lying between the villages and the river.

In the course of an advance of over two miles to German positions great numbers of Germans have been killed and prisoners taken.

On the left of the battlefield we stormed the villages of Gomécourt, Evricourt, Hamelincourt, Boyelles and Boiry-Beaucourt and made progress east of these villages.

On our right centre we advanced against German positions on the east bank of the Aneire from southeast of Albert to the neighborhood of Grandcourt and gained ground after heavy fighting. A counter attack was repulsed south of Grandcourt.

We have captured Ailette-le-Grand and Bihucourt and the ridge overlooking Irles. We continued our attacks this afternoon. Several thousand prisoners were taken and heavy casualties inflicted on the enemy.

LONDON (DAY).—Fighting is taking place along virtually the whole front between Lihons, south of the Somme, and the Cajeul River, south of Arras. Our troops are reported making progress at a number of points.

During the night the enemy twice attacked our positions in the neighborhood of Baillencourt Farm, east of Baillencourt. He was repulsed.

On the Lys front our line has been advanced slightly east of La Tourette, northwest of Neuf Berquin and east of Osterhuizen.

A hostile attack northwest of Baillencourt broke down before our positions.

## GERMAN

BERLIN (NIGHT).—Attacks by the English have been renewed northwest of Bapaume. Near Albert and the Somme our counter attacks are in progress.

The artillery engagement between the Ailette and the Aisne has been lively.

BERLIN (DAY).—Partial enemy attacks northwest of Baillencourt and on both sides of the Lys were repulsed. We captured prisoners in a counter attack.

Yesterday the British continued in full force the attack commenced on Wednesday north of the Aneire, and by crossing the Aneire extended their

Papal Benediction on 'Kaiser's Work' Denied

ROME, Aug. 23.—Referring to statements appearing in newspapers to the effect that the Pope, answering a telegram from the German Emperor, who sent him greetings on his name day, had invoked a benediction on "the Emperor's work," the Vatican organ, "Osservatore Romano," says:

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## Military Comment

By William L. McPherson

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The New York Tribune

HINDENBURG is no longer in his grave or in a sanatorium. He has returned to German Grand Headquarters and is relieving his mind in a way which must be highly disturbing to those who displaced him and to their mouthpieces among the German military critics.

Absence has absolved him from responsibility for what has happened since July 18 last. So he told the Third Regiment of Prussian Guards at a review the other day: "Our position is favorable, although, and we may frankly admit it, we lately have happened to have been set back." This is an admission which doesn't square with the German General Staff's elaborate explanation that Ludendorff has been retiring simply in order to preserve or regain a strategic freedom of movement.

"We must look to the future, however," says the blunt German replica of the ancient Scandinavian and Teutonic war gods. Looking to the future is all right. But in the fix into which Ludendorff has got himself on the Western front he hasn't any time to look to the future. The present gives him more than he can comfortably attend to. Ludendorff is rusty on the defensive. His conduct of the retreats out of the Marne salient and out of the Montdidier salient shows that. If he had been looking clearly into the future his first concern would have been to make economical withdrawals in both instances. He would have tried to accumulate as large a strategic reserve as possible for defence on some really defensible line or for the renewal of his offensive when the Allies stopped for breathing space and recuperation. Instead of that he has lavished his reserves trying to hold untenable midway positions, in the hope of covering over the extent of his defeat to the German public.

Foch will not let him think of anything now but of extricating himself from the consequences of his vacillation and dilatoriness. The whole German line from Arras to Rheims is under a painful and dangerous pressure. It is unstable and wavering, and nothing keeps it from breaking but the useless sacrifice of German divisions and guns in an effort to close up the breaches which the Allied armies are continually making.

Every day brings a new Allied thrust at some point of contact and a German retirement, costly in material and prisoners. The British made two such thrusts yesterday. Both were successful, though on a front on which the Germans have been expecting to be attacked and

which they have been holding in exceptional strength. Both thrusts aimed at enveloping Bapaume, the anchor point of the German line between Arras and the Somme. And both brilliantly supplemented Wednesday's and Thursday's direct thrust at Bapaume, which carried the British to Ailette-le-Grand, about three miles west-northwest of their present objective.

The first of yesterday's attacks was made from positions just below Arras. The British advanced east and southeast about two miles and brought up some distance west of the line of the little Sensée River, from Ervillers northeast through St. Leger to Croisilles. Ervillers is on the Arras-Bapaume high-road, about three and one-half miles northwest of Bapaume. Gomécourt, also taken, is between Ervillers and Ailette-le-Grand. From Ailette-le-Grand the British also drove directly east to Bihucourt, about two miles north-northwest of Bapaume. This city is now threatened from the north and west. The Germans are fighting desperately to hold it. But it evidently will soon be in the same straits as Chaulnes, Roye and Noyon.

The second drive was made between the Aneire and the Somme. The British also advanced here a couple of miles, pushing toward the Albert-Bapaume high-road. They are aiming at Courcellette, on the high-road, half way up from Albert. Courcellette is about six miles southwest of Bapaume. The British advance further up reached the ridge west of Irles, which is about two and one-half miles south-southwest of Bapaume. An envelopment of the latter from the southwest is thus also making rapid headway.

The German lines above the Somme showed signs of weakening yesterday. Many thousands of prisoners were taken, and counter attacks were not in evidence as they were on Wednesday and Thursday. Above Bapaume the distance from the present German line to the old Hindenburg line is now only four or five miles.

The French crossed the Divette River at Evricourt and worked in closer to Noyon, both on the west and on the east. The salient toward Coucy-le-Château and Anizy-le-Château, in the region of the Ailette River and north of Soissons, was slightly widened to the east. Here, too, the old Hindenburg line is almost in sight.

Foch's plan is to give the Germans no rest. They are everywhere nervous and apprehensive. To retreat under such unrelenting pressure as he is exerting is a ghastly prospect. Yet it is impossible for them to stay where they are. It is this choice of evils which gives Ludendorff no chance "to look to the future."

Enemy in Albania Starts New Drive On 60-Mile Front

Italians Are Forced to Fall Back at One Point by Austrians

ROME, Aug. 23.—The Austro-Bulgarian forces on the Albanian front yesterday began a new drive along a sixty-mile front from the lower reaches of the Semeri River to the heights of Mali Tomorice, overlooking the Tomarica River, according to an announcement from the War Office here to-day.

In the desperate efforts to wipe out the Allied bridgeheads along the Semeri that they wrested from the Austro-Bulgars stormed against the Italian positions, but were thrown back with heavy losses.

At one point west of Hill 1150, on the Allied right, an Italian advance post was forced to fall back slightly under tremendous pressure, the statement said.

Foch Acknowledges Arms Makers' Cable

NEWARK, Aug. 23.—Marshal Foch's reply to the night force at the International Arms and Fuse Company's plant, at Bloomfield, who recently cabled him continued cooperation in prosecuting the war, saying: "You may count on us," was received to-day. His answer reads:

"Very sensible of your felicitations. I would thank you in the name of the Allied armies. I know we count on your active collaboration in making munitions without relaxation. Our soldiers are charged to use them well."

A patriotic meeting will be held at the plant on Sunday night.

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## Big Bertha's Echo May Have Yankee Accent

PARIS, Aug. 23.—In special type "L'Heure" prints prominently this enigmatic note:

"Will the echo to the great Bertha soon be heard? Will that echo have a Yankee accent?"

More powerful guns than any Germany has so far produced were being built near Philadelphia and would be ready for shipment to France in May, Samuel Vauclair, vice-president of the Baldwin Locomotive Works, declared in Philadelphia April 4 last. The American gun would have a greater range and be more destructive than the guns used in shelling Paris, he said.

August 18 and 20 resulted in the capture of more than 10,000 prisoners, and on the 2d he forced the enemy beyond the Ailette. The army of General von Eben is in such a predicament, it is believed, that he is bound to make a formidable counter attack to halt General Mangin or be obliged to withdraw from the Aisne and Vesle to the Chemin des Dames. If the enemy does not counter attack along the Ailette it probably will mean that General von Eben is in a sadder plight than is thought here.

In the north the British Third Army has pushed the Germans so dangerously near Bapaume that the German command has found it necessary to counter attack in force. The loss of Bapaume, in the present circumstances, would amount to a disaster, according to opinion here.

The front from Lassigny to the Somme remains stationary. The expected fall of Roye has not yet occurred, but there is no hurry about that, as Roye has lost its importance now that all the roads leading to it are under the fire of the French artillery and useless to the enemy.

The most interesting theory heard was that the movement of American divisions to the sector assigned to the First American army is under way, all the divisions heretofore with the British having been withdrawn for that purpose and replaced by new units or reorganized veteran organizations brought up from rest billets.

Concentration at this time of the United States divisions on the American front, when the forward movement of the more northern armies promises so much, could only mean that General Foch has assigned to Pershing some important task closely linked with the major strategy, is the opinion of experts here. This may be in the nature of a force to prevent the sending of German reserves to stop the gap in Picardy, or a far-reaching drive on the German flank as soon as the enemy has such a movement well under way.

The rapid advance of the British patrols along the Albert-Bapaume road toward where the old German lines dip near Tara Hill is threatening to flank any counter movements against the British gains further to the north.

Some British batteries advanced several times in the last two days. No longer do the Germans bring ammunition at a walk. They come up at a gallop in a cloud of dust.

The French airplanes are as numerous as ever and the Roche machines are being harried mercilessly by bombing squadrons which fly ahead of the infantry and attack the German columns on the march.

The troops detailed to attack Albert got some tanks across the Aneire River in the darkness and they themselves began their advance under cover of the early morning mist. The resistance from the direction of Bray was very strong, but the enemy's artillery retaliation consisted almost entirely of heavy howitzer fire. These guns were stationed far back from the front. The bulk of the German field guns had apparently been withdrawn.

Meaulle was cleared with little difficulty, but sharp fighting took place up the long slopes beyond that town. The street fighting in Albert was desperate while it lasted, but was comparatively short-lived. The British captured 1,400 prisoners in the town, including a battalion commander and his staff. A few guns and many machine guns were taken, but most of the stores had been removed.

French Bring Down 14 German Planes; Fire Nine Balloons

PARIS, Aug. 23.—"On the 22d our observers carried out numerous reconnoitering excursions very deeply into the enemy line, particularly photographic missions, which brought back more than a thousand photographs," says the official statement on aviation given out to-night.

"Our chasing squadrons have brought down or put out of action fourteen enemy machines and set on fire nine captive balloons."

"Our day bombing aviators dropped eighteen tons of explosives and fired thousands of rounds of cartridges on enemy assemblages and convoys in the Marivaux Ravine, on the roads to Soissons and Chauny, and on Vauxaillon, Anizy-le-Château and Lafaux."

"During the night twenty-five tons of bombs were dropped on the stations of Ham, Laon and Guiscard. We blew up the ammunition depot of Sommettes-Faucourt. The railway stations of Meuzieres, Maison Rieu, Marchault and Pontavert also were bombed."

"A strong attack was carried out on the very important airfield at Mars-la-Tour. From the effects of the first bombs dropped a fire of considerable proportions broke out in the hangars and in the barracks of the aviators. An efficacious bombardment also was carried out on other hangars and sheds on the aviation field and on the aviators themselves. Numerous machines on the ground were seen to be burning."

"A total of forty-three tons of explosives was dropped on the 2d day."

Repulsed on the Vesle, Germans Claim Victory

BERLIN, Aug. 23.—The German official statement to-day says:

"In local attacks we pressed back an American line of posts between Bevoches and Pismes and repulsed enemy counter attacks."

## Foch Planning Decisive Drive, Experts Think

Most Complete Defeat Yet Administered Germans Is Expected

Our Boys Believed Concentrating Now

Americans Thought to Have Been Assigned to Important Task

WASHINGTON, Aug. 23.—The almost unvarying success described in today's dispatches telling of the great Allied offensive on the fifty-mile front stretching from Soissons northward to the environs of Arras, raised hopes in military circles here for the most decisive defeat yet administered to the Germans. Observers were of the opinion that General Foch's whittling tactics of the last six weeks have been so effective that opportunity has come for a glorious harvest.

It has been thought, however, that a considerable number of American troops still are with the British Third and Fourth armies, and most military officers were at a loss to understand why they had not been identified in the capture of some of the important enemy positions overrun during the day.

The most interesting theory heard was that the movement of American divisions to the sector assigned to the First American army is under way, all the divisions heretofore with the British having been withdrawn for that purpose and replaced by new units or reorganized veteran organizations brought up from rest billets.

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